

71st CSB soldiers rush to aid injured comrade

By **Spc. Christopher Fincham**
V Corps Public Affairs Office

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE, Poland — So there you are, sitting in another training class. Learning something you've already heard countless times before. Thinking, like most everyone else there, "When am I ever really going to use any of this?"

But if that was the case for soldiers of the 71st Corps Support Battalion who participated in mass-casualty training Friday, learning to evaluate casualties and follow medical evacuation procedures, they never let it show when they found themselves put to a real test less than 24 hours later.

"His leg is broken! Oh my God! Did you see that? Look at his leg!"

In moments, a friendly soccer game between soldiers and the Polish children at the House of Children in Mosty here turned into confusion and excitement. In the blink of an eye, a seemingly harmless fall had mangled Spc. Joseph Dunois' leg and left the 317th Maintenance Company soldier badly injured, lying helpless on the field.

Within seconds, several soldiers rushed onto the field with combat lifesaver bags, while others scrambled for cell phones and collected pillows, blankets or anything else that might help.

"I saw him hit the ground and he just didn't get up. Then I saw his leg twisted like a pretzel... I guess I just reacted on instinct," said Spc. Brandon Newberry, 317th Maintenance Co., who was among the first to get to his fallen comrade. "I grabbed my bag and ran to him. They already had a bag out when I got there and we just got to work."

Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Almeida, an Army reservist from Rhode Island's 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, who was also one of the first to reach Dunois, settled everyone down and got them



Photo by Spc. Christopher Fincham
Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Almeida lifts Dunois' leg in order to stabilize it on top off some pillows as soldiers and children look on.

focused on the task at hand, according to Spc. David Hammond, 317th Maintenance Co.

"He kept us real calm and slowed us all down so we weren't rushing and maybe miss something or cause further injury," said Hammond.

"Give me your Kevlar. Put his leg up here. Where are those pillows?"

"We had to prop his foot up on something, so we grabbed a Kevlar and then some pillows to set it on," said Spc. Glen King, 317th Maintenance Co. "Once we did that, we started to splint the injury."

"Sgt. Almeida held his leg and we cut his shoe and sock off to get a better look at the injuries, and once we saw it we decided to im-

mobilize it with a splint to prevent it from moving," said Hammond.

"You're gonna be alright. Calm down. Everything's gonna be okay."

"We had to keep him calm," said Spc. Ashley Brown, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 71st CSB. "We kept talking to him, trying to keep him talking to us and not focusing on his leg and foot."

While all this is going on, everyone who had a phone was using it in an effort to get in touch with a medevac ambulance. Soon, grid coordinates were relayed and an air ambulance was en route to Mosty.

But even with help on the way, the soldiers on the ground weren't done yet. It was cool and had rained most of the day. Dunois was starting to get cold.

"You never know when someone's body will go into shock," said 2nd Lt. Adam Bird, 317th Maintenance Co.

Continually reassuring him, the soldiers gathered some blankets and wrapped him up to keep him warm and as comfortable as possible.

The issue of landing the helicopter was the next task at hand, so the quick-thinking soldiers devised a simple plan to mark a landing area that the pilots could easily recognize from the air. "They had to be able to see where they

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Photo by Spc. Christopher Fincham
Soldiers rush Dunois to the helicopter.

US Troops Are Welcomed!

By Spc. Claudia Baltodano
100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE TRAINING AREA, Poland—When more than 5,000 pairs of combat boots march into a new training area it is sure to make an impact on residents of that town, and this small Polish city is no exception. Not only do the American soldiers now here for the joint V Corps-Polish forces exercise Victory Strike III help boost the economy, but they also help boost the morale of the Polish people.

A small community, worlds apart from the U.S., freed from the clutches of communism for just 13 years, Drawsko Pomorskie is slowly gaining stability through perseverance and the support of the ever more frequent U.S. and NATO exercises here.

"The locals don't mind having the American troops roll into town during Victory Strike exercises here, because they help to improve the economy," said Artur Pilarczyk, a local storeowner and 30-year resident of the town.

Pilarczyk said that profits double for just about every store or restaurant owner around

Drawsko Pomorskie during Victory Strike exercises. But American troops not only bring money to the economy; they are helping to reconstruct local schools, roads and hospitals.

"Every year the U.S. Army leaves about \$3 million worth of contracting work to help rebuild this city," said Capt. Piotr Dziurdzia, a Polish army communications officer.

The local hospital's Medical Rescue Unit is currently under reconstruction by U.S. troops of V Corps' 94th Engineer Battalion. Expenses for these repairs alone are estimated to be about \$60,000.

Still, despite the Americans' humanitarian efforts here, there are a few local businessmen who have expressed their disapproval, saying that Polish traders will not get any profits, because U.S. troops will bring all they need from Germany. But for the most part, the people are glad to have the troops here.

"Most people say if it is possible, they would rather have an army base here full-time, because

then there will be more jobs," said Pilarczyk. "Unemployed people have work (when U.S. exercises are being conducted), and it is a very positive sign to see our hospitals and schools refurbished," said Jerzy Michalski, a local restaurant owner.

American soldiers are also positive role models for local children, said Pilarczyk. Local children see American soldiers out and about while they are riding a bicycle or playing, their eyes light up, as if they are seeing a movie star.

"History has it that the Polish

people have always loved the American soldiers. I don't know why, that's just the way it has always been," he said.

As soon as the children see American soldiers out and about while they are riding a bicycle or wandering down a street, their eyes light up as if they are seeing a movie star in person.

"I feel good having these children look up to us," said Sgt. Steven Morgan, V Corps headquarters, administrative NCO. "I think we are making a difference, and the locals feel it and appreciate it."



Photo by Spc. Claudia Baltodano
Artur Pilarczyk tends to a U.S. soldier at the town's grocery store across the street from Oleszno training camp. Pilarczyk adds to the community's hospitality by lengthening the hours of operation for the duration of VSIII.



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VSIII troops conduct mass NBC training

By Sgt. Amy Abbott

V Corps Public Affairs Office

DRAWSKO POMORSKIE TRAINING AREA, Poland — Some things in life are no joking matter. Recent anthrax scares and the possibility of nuclear, biological and chemical attacks have weighed heavily on soldiers' minds and underscored the need to constantly train to protect

themselves against any weapon the enemy may have.

It was with that mission in mind that approximately 600 soldiers of all ranks participated in nuclear, biological and chemical training conducted by the V Corps Special Troops Battalion at their home base at "Camp Dodge" here.

The reason for the training, explained STB Sgt. Maj. Raymond Rasmussen, is that

these skills are crucial to every soldier, but can be easily forgotten over time if their training isn't kept current.

"NBC skills are easily diminished, and soldiers constantly need reinforcement of those skills," Rasmussen said. "It also prepares the soldiers for any further NBC training either here at this exercise or for future deployments."

The main portion of the training was conducted Oct. 3, when V Corps soldiers from units such as the 302nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 22nd

Signal Brigade, V Corps Artillery, 130th Engineer Brigade and others were broken down into classes to go over the "basics."

"This is the basic of basics. You are taught this as soon as you come into the Army, but you would be surprised how many soldiers honestly don't know how to do Common Task Training," explained Staff Sgt. John Green, an NBC instructor with the STB's 503rd Chemical Detachment, and one of the class' instructors. "Most of the soldiers do not know how to use the equipment properly, and so as a leader, this type of training constantly needs to be enforced."

The classes were broken down into training and testing on six basic NBC tasks. The tasks focused on teaching soldiers the proper ways to wear and use their M40 protective masks and chemical protective Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear; decontaminating exposed skin and equipment with the Army's M295 and M291 kits, administering antidotes for nerve agents, and detecting the presence of chemical agents on the battlefield.

"The class was pretty good," said Staff Sgt. Stephen James, a master driver at STB. "Not too many people can actually put on their equipment (in the time allotted) and the more training we get, the more efficient we are. The biggest thing in this training is just repeatedly doing it over and over."

This training also gave the unit's leadership a better chance to ensure that all their soldiers' equipment was completely functional.

On the future battlefield, there is a strong likelihood of soldiers being attacked by, or exposed to, chemical weapons or industrial chemicals, said Green. That threat makes it vital that soldiers know what to do when faced with danger.

"If you don't train on it now and end up trying to force it on your soldiers later, they won't be confident. We want our soldiers to be confident," he said.

The unit is planning more NBC training during Victory Strike III, including decontamination team training and an actual decontamination exercise with equipment.



Photo by Sgt. Amy Abbott

Staff Sgt. John Green, NBC instructor with the 503rd Chemical Detachment, checks Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Kaita's, imagery intelligence technician, A Company, 302nd Military Intelligence Brigade, M40 protective mask during NBC training Thursday.



Photo by Sgt. Amy Abbott

Staff Sgt. Stephen James, Master Driver, Special Troops Battalion, puts on his M40 protective mask as part of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training class given by STB at Camp Dodge.



Photo by Sgt. Amy Abbott

Troops participating in the mass NBC training test their skills on donning protective masks.

Sports

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|----|
| Tampa Bay | 20 | Washington | 31 |
| Atlanta | 6 | Tennessee | 14 |
| NY Giants | 21 | New England | 13 |
| Dallas | 17 | Miami | 26 |
| Oakland | 49 | Arizona | 16 |
| Buffalo | 31 | Carolina | 13 |
| Cincinnati | 21 | San Diego | 9 |
| Indianapolis | 28 | Denver | 26 |
| Pittsburgh | 29 | Baltimore | 26 |
| New Orleans | 32 | Cleveland | 21 |
| Kansas City | 29 | Philadelphia | 25 |
| NY Jets | 25 | Jacksonville | 28 |
| St. Louis 13 | MONDAY NIGHT | | |
| San Francisco | 37 | Green Bay at Chicago | |

MLB:

The Twins held on Sunday to defeat Oakland 5-4 and win their first series in 11 years. They move on to play Anaheim who shocked the Yankees by scoring 8 runs in the fifth inning of their 9-5 series clinching win. In the National League, the Cardinals, without third baseman Scott Rolen, await the winner of the Braves, Giants series which is tied 2-2.

NCAA Football:

| AP Poll | ESPN Coaches' Poll | BCS (if revealed today) |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Miami (73) | Miami(60) | Miami |
| Oklahoma | Texas(1) | Va. Tech |
| Texas(1) | Oklahoma | Georgia |
| Va. Tech | Va. Tech | Notre Dame |
| Ohio State | Ohio State | Ohio State |
| Georgia | Georgia | Oklahoma |
| Oregon | Oregon | Texas |
| Notre Dame | Notre Dame | Florida State |
| Florida State | Tennessee | Oregon |
| Tennessee | Michigan | NC State |

Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers, winds will be out of the northwest at 10 to 15 knots becoming northerly in the afternoon.

High: 52F Low: 39F

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy skies with late evening fog winds will be northeast 5 knots.

High: 46F Low: 32F

(Weather provided by V CORPS USAF Weather Team)

Information Roundup

Safety Is Important to Soldiers

■ **Have a plan.** When you want to get things done quickly, the best way to accomplish it is not with speed of movement, but with organization. Make sure your soldiers study the plan: who is going to accomplish what tasks and how, who is going to help, and what equipment goes where. Information provided by V Corps Safety Office.

MEDEVAC...

could land," said Bird. "Everybody grab a jersey; Get your Kevlars on. Put your gloves on and get on the field!"

When the medevac came over the tree line, soldiers in bright red and yellow soccer jerseys forming an X on the soccer field alerted oriented the pilots to their landing zone. Once it was clear the pilots recognized the site, the formation disassembled and the soldiers rushed off the field. They then had to make a safe landing in an area with trees on three sides and a steep hill on the fourth. It wasn't an ideal landing area for a Black Hawk. Knowing this, Spc. Alvaro Arias, HHD 71st CSB, had already positioned himself to guide the pilots to the ground.

"When I found out that a medevac was coming, I knew that was my chance to help," he said. Arias, who is air assault qualified, learned how to properly guide a helicopter as a part of his training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. "They (the combat lifesaver-trained soldiers) did what they were trained to do, and then I did what I was trained to do."

Dunois was placed on a gurney, and minutes later the helicopter took off. Silence fell over the stands and everyone seemed to breathe a collective sigh of relief as they took a moment to reflect.

"We were training yesterday, and we were all joking around about what we would actually do if something really happened and we had to medevac someone," said Brown.

"Before this happened, we all thought we were never going to use this training, and then all of a sudden, there we were. The training just kicks in," said Newberry. "You never know how you're going to react until you're faced with a situation like this."

"It's beautiful to see all this training just take effect and see that when it comes down to it, we can all use what we've been taught," Arias said.

Bird best summed up the day's events, "They did what they needed to do when it needed to be done. That's an American soldier."

Dunois remains in the hospital and is in good condition.

Editor's note: Spc. Christopher Fincham is assigned to 3rd Corps Support Command, Public Affairs Office.



Photo by Spc. Christopher Fincham
Children from the Mosti Home for Children sign the soccer jersey that Spc. Joseph Dunois was wearing during the game. They plan to give it to him in the hospital as a get well present.